



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,230	09/18/2001	Christopher J. Kelly	INTL-0644-US (P12307)	8306
7590	02/24/2004		EXAMINER	DINH, TUAN T
Timothy N. Trop TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. Suite 100 8554 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024-1805			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	
DATE MAILED: 02/24/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/955,230	Applicant(s) KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner Tuan T Dinh	Art Unit 2827

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 23 January 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

(a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

(b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);

(c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

(d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.

6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-29.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments are not persuasive, and examiner still maintains the final rejection mailed on 01/16/04, see an explanation as below:

Applicant argues:

(a) with respect to claims 1-14, Kirkman (or in combine with Nuxoll) do/does not teach "a supply voltage plane embedded in a signal layer (claim 1)". It is incorrect, clearly Kirkman shows a signal layer 80 including power and ground rings/planes (46, 48), see column 7, lines 30-31 and embedded in the signal layer as shown in figure 3.

(b) with respect to claims 15-19, Kirkman in view of Nuxoll fails to teach the limitations in claim 15. Examiner disagrees. Since applicant does not point out or argue what Kirkman fails to teach. However, examiner suggests applicant to review page 4 of the final office action

(d) with respect to claims 20-26, Kirkman in view of Nuxoll fails to teach "embedding a supply voltage plane in a signal layer." Examiner disagrees, see the explanation of part (a)

(e) with respect to claims 27-29, Kirkman in view of Nuxoll fails to teach the limitations of claim 27. Examiner disagrees, see the explanation of part (b).



KAMAND CUNEOP
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800